

Progress Achieved by Non-self-governing Territories

At its tenth session in 1955 the General Assembly expressed the opinion that an examination of the progress achieved in the non-self-governing territories since the establishment of the United Nations would be highly desirable and should make it possible to learn the extent to which the peoples of those territories were advancing towards the goals set out in Chapter XI of the Charter. Following the submission of a work plan by the Secretary-General at the eleventh session concerning the scope and method of preparation of the proposed review, the General Assembly agreed that the Secretary-General should prepare, in collaboration with United Nations Specialized Agencies, an appropriate report on the progress achieved in the territories. The survey will be based on information of a technical nature received from the administering states under Chapter XI (Article 73(e) of the Charter) and will be limited to those fields (that is, economic, social and educational) on which information has been transmitted in the past. The review will cover the years 1946-1956 and is to be submitted to the General Assembly at the fourteenth session in 1959. The proposal was adopted by 65 votes in favour (including Canada), 3 against, with 3 abstentions.

Cessation of Transmission of Information

On some occasions in the past when a non-self-governing territory has attained independence or full self-government, the state which formerly administered the territory has notified the Assembly of the territory's new status, submitting the information to the Committee on Information from Non-self-governing Territories which in turn has referred it to the General Assembly. However, the administering states have always maintained that such information, which they assert is of a political character, is supplied on a voluntary basis and that they are under no obligation to provide it under Chapter XI of the Charter. A resolution was put forward proposing that future communications relating to the cessation of the transmission of information on non-self-governing territories be submitted direct to the General Assembly rather than first being sent to the Committee on Information as has been the past practice in accordance with a resolution of the General Assembly passed at the fifth session in 1948. The Canadian Delegation abstained when this resolution was voted on since it appeared to be chiefly a procedural one. The administering states, which were the ones most immediately concerned with the resolution, took differing positions although they were unanimous in affirming that as a matter of principle the General Assembly had no competence under the Charter to request notification of the cessation of the transmission of information concerning a territory. The resolution was adopted by 48 votes in favour, 15 against, with 7 abstentions (including Canada).

Trust Territories

Sessions of the Trusteeship Council

In the period under review, the Trusteeship Council held two sessions, its seventeenth from February 7 to April 6, and its eighteenth from June 7 to August 14. The Council consists¹ of the member states which administer

¹See Appendix I.